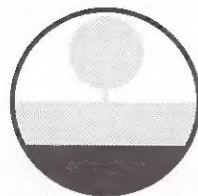


On the Grand

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On the Grand is a quarterly publication distributed by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member municipalities and watershed residents. It contains short news items about Conservation Authority programs and projects in the Grand River valley.

Grand Opening of *Discovery Room*

Over 200 people attended the official opening of the Apps' Mill Nature Centre *Discovery Room*, Sunday, February 26, 1995. Everyone at the opening had an opportunity to investigate the fascinating world of nature through the magic of the *Discovery Room's* new interpretive displays and activities.

It was designed by two fourth year University of Waterloo students, Shira Golden and Jennifer Newcombe, who completed the project on a volunteer basis. Golden and Newcombe were also responsible for raising all the funds for the project with donations from Shell Canada, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Nederman Canada, Canada Trust and the GRCA.

The many interpretive displays such as Dinosaurs and Reptiles, Bird Watching, Detective Centre, and a game about the Grand River, were designed with children and adults in mind. The *Discovery Room* is open to the public on Sundays throughout the year. Please call the Apps' Mill Nature Centre at (519) 752-0655 for Discovery Times.

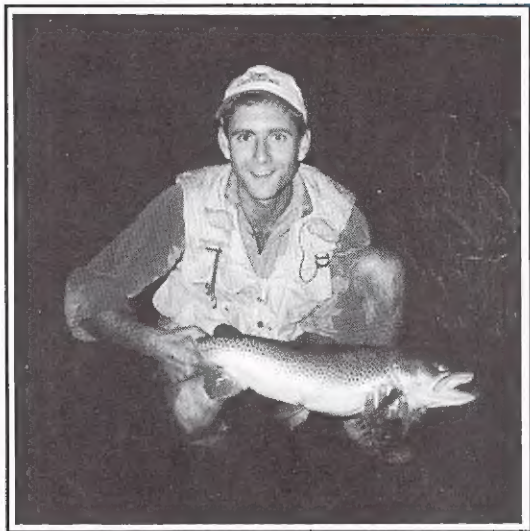


Digging Something Up - These future archaeologists unearth some exciting finds in the Apps' Mill Nature Centre *Discovery Room*.



THE GRAND -
A Canadian Heritage River

GRAND EVENTS



Belwood Fishing Forum

The Belwood Lake Conservation Area near Fergus is the site of the "Grand Opportunities Fishing Forum", June 10 and 11, 1995. This is Ontario's first outdoor "hands-on" fishing show.

Some of the weekend's activities include fly tying demonstrations by Jay Passmore, fly casting demonstrations by four-time Canadian Casting Champion Norm Wallachy and fishing seminars by Phil Kettle. There will also be a casting and fishing contest for young anglers.

Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.25 for seniors and students, and \$1.75 for children.

For information on this event contact the Belwood Lake Conservation Area, c/o Derek Strub, R.R. #4, Fergus, Ontario, N1M 2W5, (519) 843-2979.



Fishing Day Camps

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) will be holding three fishing day camps this summer for anglers ages nine to 12. All fishing equipment is supplied for each camp which runs for three days at a cost per student of \$100. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 10 anglers per camp. Please call (519) 621-2761 for registration information on Fishing Camps or GRCA Discovery Day Camps.

Fishing Camps - Dates and Locations:

July 10-11-12

Guelph Lake
Conservation Area
Guelph



July 17-18-19

Shade's Mills
Conservation Area
Cambridge

July 24-25-26

Apps' Mill Nature Centre
Paris



GRAND EVENTS



Great Walk/Ride to Beat Cancer

The Cambridge Chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society is holding a "Great Walk/Ride" along the Cambridge to Paris Rail-Trail on Sunday, April 30, starting at 1:00 p.m. Participants can walk six or 12 kilometers, or bike 10 or 20 kilometers. Pledge forms are available from 2 George St.N., Cambridge, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed for lunch) or can be mailed to participants by calling 623-7144. Call this same number for further information.



Heritage River Walk for Arthritis

The Arthritis Society is holding its 2nd Annual Heritage River Walk on Sunday, July 30, 1995 along the Cambridge to Paris Rail-Trail. Participants may choose a five, nine or an 18 kilometre route to walk, run or bike. For further information call (519) 743-2820 in Kitchener.

Summer Discovery Camps

The GRCA is offering Discovery Day Camps this year at the Apps' Mill and Guelph Lake Nature Centres. Camps run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for campers ages 6 to 10. To attend the entire week of camp the cost is \$80, however there is also the option of attending the camp on a \$20 per day basis. Camp programs include: Nature Hikes, Dinosaur Crafts, Campfires, Great Bug Hunts and much more. These camps are designed to introduce children to the wonders of nature while they enjoy fun, hands-on activities in the great out-of-doors. Camp activities are in a relaxed but well-supervised setting to allow your child an appreciation and understanding of the natural world. Experienced Nature Centre staff will help campers have fun while discovering more about nature and the environment. To register for these camps or for more information, contact the Nature Centres at the numbers below.

Apps' Mill Nature Centre Camps

July 10 to 14
August 14 to 18
located near Paris
(519) 752-0655

Guelph Lake Nature Centre Camps

July 17 to 21
July 31 to August 4
August 14 to 18
located near Guelph
(519) 836-7860

Boat Race and Outdoor Show at Belwood Lake

The Belwood Lake Conservation Area will be holding a Boat Race, June 24 & 25, 1995 and an Outdoor Show, July 29 & 30, 1995.

For information on these special events, please contact Belwood Lake at (519) 843-2979 near Fergus.

A Cold and Calculating Act

As we sit inside by cozy fires watching the snow fall and listening to the wind howl, we sometimes dream of a day when all those white flakes melt and the air smells fresh and warm and green. But before the great drifts begin to disappear, there are people who measure the snow's depth and weight. This cold and calculating act is not without purpose. Conservation Authorities need to know how much water is in the snow to determine potential spring flooding.

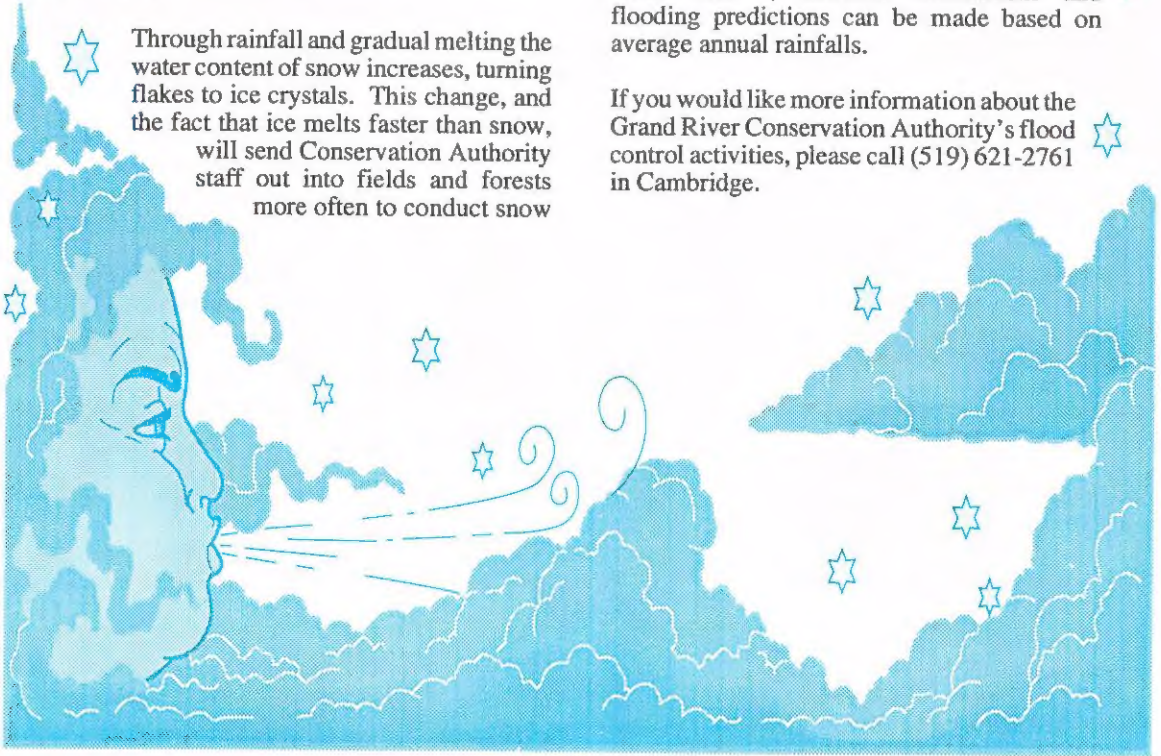
Conservation Authorities are responsible for water control along the province's rivers. Spring is a very important period because of the many factors that can come together to produce a flood. One of these is snow. Throughout the winter and until all the snow melts, Conservation Authorities conduct snow surveys where samples are taken throughout a watershed to determine the depth of snow and its water content.

surveys. Measurements must be kept up to date to assist in calculating the amount of water that would run into reservoirs and rivers during the spring melt. Surveys also help determine how much available flood storage would be used in reservoirs and the amount of flooding that could occur, should the reservoirs fill.

A critical point occurs each spring when snow reaches a moisture density of 50% and cannot hold more water. If there is a weather forecast for rain and/or mild temperatures, conservation authorities are alerted to possible flooding. Based on the amount of rain and length of time the temperatures are warm, a flood warning message may be issued. When the snow is this saturated, the rain will not be absorbed and will run directly into rivers and reservoirs. The amount of rainfall is always the "wild card", however calculations and flooding predictions can be made based on average annual rainfalls. ☆

If you would like more information about the Grand River Conservation Authority's flood control activities, please call (519) 621-2761 in Cambridge. ☆

☆ Through rainfall and gradual melting the water content of snow increases, turning flakes to ice crystals. This change, and the fact that ice melts faster than snow, will send Conservation Authority staff out into fields and forests more often to conduct snow



Triple the Pleasure; Triple the Fun!



Sights Along the Way - Whether you use a wheelchair, walk, bike, jog, cross-country ski or snowshoe, a Rail-Trail is a wonderful way to get a little exercise while enjoying some of the many scenic areas of the Grand River valley.

Last year was a busy time for the GRCA's three Rail-Trails being developed in the valley.

The Cambridge to Paris Trail was formally opened in July, in cooperation with the Arthritis Society's first annual walkathon. Further refinements and finishing touches will be made to the trail this year.

Community events scheduled for the trail so far this year include: a Cancer Society Walkathon on Sunday, April 30; and an Arthritis Society Walkathon on Sunday July 30.

Master Planning is nearly completed for the Elora/Fergus to Cataract Trail, in cooperation with our neighboring Credit Valley Conservation Authority, and the Wellington Rails-To-Trails group. Development of the trail should start this spring and continue through the summer, with a possible formal opening later this autumn.

Meanwhile, near Brantford, the GRCA is about to purchase the Brantford to Jerseyville portion of the rail corridor, which will complete the Rail-Trail link between Brantford and Hamilton.

Funding for partial purchase of these abandoned railway rights-of-way is provided by the Province of Ontario. The balance of purchase cost, plus all development costs, are being raised as a project of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation.

Celebrating its 30 year, the Foundation is comprised of volunteer community members who raise funds for projects that could not otherwise be undertaken by the GRCA. Past projects have included the construction of two GRCA Nature Centers (Laurel Creek in Waterloo and Apps' Mill near Paris), purchasing lands for wildlife habitat preservation, tree planting (two million to date), and the establishment of three annual Conservation Scholarship awards.

The Foundation has raised over \$640,000 for the Rail-Trails, with only about \$175,000 needed to complete all expected Rail-Trail purchase and development costs. Donations to the Foundation are tax exempt, and are used to forward environmental projects right here in the Grand River valley.

If you would like to support Rail-Trails or other conservation work, contact the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation at (519) 621-2761 in Cambridge.

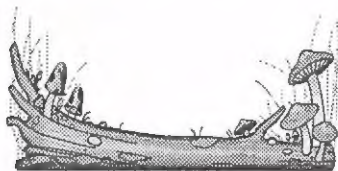
Beyond the Books

The best way to discover our natural world is not to sit and talk about it but to get out and actually hike through a forest or look for signs of life in a stream. Students in the Cambridge area are now leaving their classrooms behind and going to the Shade's Mills Nature Centre for lessons in outdoor education.

Located beside a reservoir, Shade's Mills offers a variety of forest and meadow habitats for students. The activities students participate in at Shade's tie in and compliment their regular classroom studies. By studying "out-of-doors" instead of in the confines of a classroom, students experience our environment through their day's discoveries. Discoveries and memories that can last a lifetime.

A co-operative venture with the Waterloo Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, Shade's is the seventh Nature Centre to be operated by the GRCA. Others include Laurel Creek in Waterloo, Guelph Lake, Apps' Mill and Brant near Brantford, Taquanyah near Cayuga and the mobile Fairlake Centre education program.

Over 40,000 students visit GRCA Nature Centres every year.



From the Ground Up - GRCA Resource Interpreter Peter Pautler teaches students how to examine a soil profile at the new Shade's Mills Nature Centre in Cambridge.



The Grand River Conservation Authority will be opening its Parks for the season this year on Friday, April 28th.

For those who want information on Admission and Camping Fees, please contact the GRCA's Head Office in Cambridge at (519) 621-2761 or call any of the following parks:

Belwood Lake - (519) 843-2979; **Brant** - (519) 752-2040;
Byng Island - (905) 774-5755; **Conestogo Lake** - (519) 638-2873;
Elora Gorge - (519) 846-9742; **Guelph Lake** - (519) 824-5061;
Laurel Creek - (519) 884-6620; **Pinehurst Lake** - (519) 442-4721;
Rockwood - (519) 856-9543; **Shade's Mills** - (519) 621-3697.

Kiwanis Park and Elora Quarry will open on June 17.

A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h I i J j K k L l M m N n

Cash in on Scholarships

It's a hard road to pay your way through university. Ask any student who's out there studying hard, with part time and summer jobs to try to make ends meet.

For students taking university courses in the fields of Environmental Studies, Geography, Planning and conservation-related Biology, there is some financial help on the horizon.

The Grand Valley Conservation Foundation has established three scholarships. These grants of \$1,500 are awarded annually to students enrolled in the above fields of study at the watershed universities of Waterloo, Guelph and Wilfrid Laurier, as well as Conestoga College.

The Marcel Pequegnat and Robert Haworth Scholarships have been awarded for a number of years. New in 1994 was the S.C. Johnson Environmental Scholarship, provided by an annual donation by Johnson Wax to the Foundation.

Students eligible for the scholarships are those in the 3rd or 6th semester. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 31, and application forms can be obtained from University or College Awards Offices, or from the Foundation at (519) 621-2761 in Cambridge.

**Stop by and See
Our Exhibit!**

Stop by the Conservation Authority exhibit at the Outdoor Farm Show near Burford, **August 15 to 17** and the International Plowing Match (IPM) near Ayr, **September 19 to 23rd**

For both events the GRCA will be working in partnership with several other conservation authorities and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to develop an informational/educational exhibit. For the Plowing Match the GRCA is also cooperating with the IPM Educational Committee to incorporate our exhibit into their package of suggested tour stops for students.

Yellow Fish Road

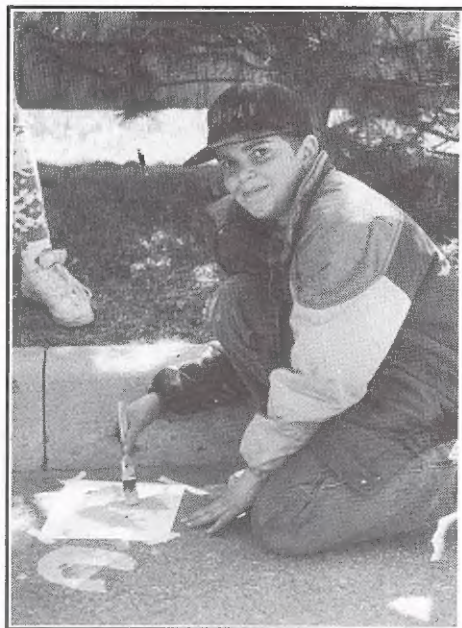
Yellow Fish, of a non-tasty variety, are helping to improve water quality in the Grand River watershed. These fish are painted beside storm drains in residential neighbourhoods. Since 1993, the likelihood of encountering one of these fish has increased dramatically, as numerous volunteer groups in communities across the watershed have taken part in the **Yellow Fish Road - Storm Drain Marking Program**.

The Yellow Fish Road Program gets local community groups and schools involved with the painting of small fish stencils beside storm drains and the distribution of educational brochures to local residents. **The fish symbol is intended to remind residents of the direct link between storm drains and our natural waterways.**

The information brochure explains any hazardous material, such as: unused oil, paint and other chemicals poured down storm drains, as well as sources of non-point pollution from lawns, driveways, parking lots, construction sites, and farms, can quickly kill a stream by introducing organic and inorganic pollutants.

The SDMP is coordinated in the watershed by the GRCA with support from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Trout Unlimited Canada. Along with watershed cities, some of the smaller communities participating in the SDMP include: New Hamburg, Dunnville, Elora, Fergus, Salem, Baden and St. George.

Storm drain marking kits are available on loan from the GRCA. For further information on how to get involved, please write, call or fax: Biologist (Biological Assessment) c/o the GRCA.



Generous Donation - Deer Ridge Charitable Foundation Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fleming and President Ray Alarie presented a cheque to GRCA Chairman Archie MacRobbie to be used to renovate GRCA buildings used by the Central Ontario Riding Development Program in Kitchener.